

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The electric machine of claim ~~18~~ wherein each of the magnet slots comprises a portion having a shape complimentary to a shape of at least a portion of the magnet.
3. (Original) The electric machine of claim 2 wherein the portion of the magnet slot having the complimentary shape is elongated.
4. (Currently Amended) The electric machine of claim ~~18~~ wherein the at least one non-magnetic structure formed at a rotor core internal location proximate to an expected pole location of a magnet emplaced in the magnet slot comprises an end of the magnet slot abutting at least one non-magnetic region having a width in excess of a width of the magnet slot where at least a portion of the magnetic slot is substantially magnet-shaped.
5. (Original) The electric machine of claim 4 wherein the at least one non-magnetic region having a width in excess of a width of the magnet slot comprises a substantially bulbous region.
6. (Currently Amended) The electric machine of claim ~~15~~ wherein each of the magnet slots further comprises:

at least one notch extending inwardly into the magnet slot and disposed between a substantially linear portion of the magnet slot and the substantially bulbous region along a side of the respective ones of the magnet slots.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electric machine ~~of claim 7, comprising:~~  
a stator; and

a rotor core mounted for rotation with respect to the stator, the rotor core comprising a number of a magnet slots and at least one non-magnetic structure formed at a rotor core internal location proximate to an expected pole location of a magnet emplaced in the magnet slot;

a filler forming at least a part of the at least one non-magnetic structure wherein the filler comprises at least one of air, an epoxy, a resin, or an adhesive.

9. (Currently Amended) The electric machine of claim ~~4~~8, further comprising:

a number of permanent magnets, each of the permanent magnets disposed within a respective one of the magnet slots.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The electric machine of claim 9, further comprising:

a number of non-magnetic wedges, each non-magnetic wedge disposed adjacent to a respective one of the permanent magnets to establish a movement-resistant friction fit between the permanent magnet and the magnet slot.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The electric machine of claim 15 wherein the load absorbing material comprises a filler is-selected from the group consisting of at least one of air, an epoxy, a resin, ~~or~~ and an adhesive.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electric machine ~~of claim 12, further~~ comprising:

a stator;

a rotor mounted for rotation with respect to the stator, the rotor comprising a number of magnet slots, each slot comprising opposed end portions and a central portion disposed between the end portions, the central portion of each of the magnet slot slots shaped to complimentarily receive a magnet;

a number of magnets complimentarily received in the central portions of the magnet slots of the rotor; and

a load absorbing material filling at least a portion of each of the end portions of the magnet slots.

16. (Currently Amended) The electric machine of claim ~~12~~15, wherein the end portions of the magnet slots have a width greater than a width of the central portion of the magnet slots.

17. (Currently Amended) The electric machine of claim ~~12~~15, wherein the end portions of the magnet slots are substantially bulbous-shaped.

18-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A rotor assembly of an electric machine, comprising:

a lamination layer configured to be axially stacked in a series of lamination layers to form a rotor core of an electric machine;

the lamination layer forming at least a part of at least one internal slot, each internal slot comprising an elongate portion and at least one expanded bulbous end portion disposed at one end of the elongate portion; ~~and~~

a permanent magnet disposed within each internal slot; and

a load absorbing material received in the end portions of the internal slots between a portion of a wall forming the end portion and the respective permanent magnet disposed in the internal slot.

27. (New) The rotor assembly of claim 26 wherein the load absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of epoxy, resin, or adhesive.

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1A, 5 and 6. These sheets, which include Figures 1A, 1B, 5 and 6, replace the original sheets including Figures 1A-1B, 5 and 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets